

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, online and by phone.

- 1. Roll Call:** Bill Welch, Kavi Chokshi, Kellie Jensen, Kersey Marion, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Peter Grube, Rory Isbell, Serena Dietrich, Tess Gardner (alternate)

**Absent:** Kersey Marion

Member Grube commented on having to leave the meeting early.

### **2. Approval of minutes from 12/14/2020 ECC meeting**

Member Chokshi moved to approve the December 14, 2020 meeting minutes. Member Jensen seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously (8-0).

### **3. Public Comment**

No public comments.

Member Baunsgard asked for clarification on how the public comment process works before the meeting. Lacy said she would check and get back to the committee.

Member Chokshi asked if individual members could answer emails that are sent to the committee. Lacy stated that should be discussed by the committee.

Member Isbell said a procedure should be set up where the chair gets cc'd on an email. Isbell said it would be a bad idea to say that members could not individually respond to someone. Isbell said a big role of a member on the committee is being an outlet for the public to bring concerns to on environment and climate issues.

Member Grube stated the committee should be intentional about these issues and it would be inefficient if members were all trying to become experts on each of the issues. Grube said there should be a systematic approach to who and how the committee is handling each issue.

Member Chokshi said that public input is a big part of the committee's role and was supportive of sending a quick thank you to people who have sent public comments so that they know they are being heard by the members.

Member Welch said it would be important to interact with people but the committee has to be careful not to represent their view as that of the committee.

Member Buckley said members should focus on information gathering and clarification in understanding issues that could be brought back to the committee. Buckley said outward messaging should be the committee's position.

Member Grube asked what the process would be for picking members to respond to certain comments from the public. Lacy said it has not been decided yet. Lacy said an idea on that could be copying the chair and staff. Lacy said that could be a broader discussion the committee has at a later date.

Member Dietrich said maybe a parking lot could be created to place topics in to be followed up on, on a later agenda. Lacy said the Neighborhood Leadership Alliance has a parking lot like that where both the chair and staff review every month or the committee reviews every month to make sure nothing is getting lost.

Lacy presented the following updates:

- Information repository coming soon
- Regular meeting schedule

#### **4. Review Input to Council Goal Setting**

Lacy presented the following slides on the Council Goal Input Form

- Organization's Goals
- What is the biggest problem your organization believes the City should address
- If we solved this problem, what would the outcome look like? Paint a vision
- If you know of suggested plans or objectives to achieve this change, please describe
- Describe practical steps to measure progress toward the goal

The committee discussed the following changes to the Council Goal Input Form:

- Organization's Mission/Goals
  - Third bullet point – add public and private investments
- What is the biggest problem your organization believes the City should address
  - First paragraph, first sentence – take out the word 'pristine' and replace it with 'beautiful'
  - First paragraph, last sentence – replace 'to do our part within leadership' and replace with 'in leadership'
  - Last paragraph, last sentence – remove 'progressive' and replace with 'innovative' or 'sustainably-minded'
- If we solve this problem, what would the outcome look like
  - Rearrange the bullet points – move the fourth and sixth to the top
  - Add to the opening paragraph that says something like 'overall making Bend a more sustainable City'
  - Fifth bullet point – separate into two bullet points, one about procurement and one about waste management
- If you know of suggested plans or objectives to achieve this change, please describe

- Second paragraph – remove ‘policy or investment decisions’ and replace with ‘policy, investment or other decisions’
- Add a sentence or two about participating in advocacy at the county, state, and federal levels – keep it neutral to any specific policies or specific administration
- Describe practical steps to measure progress toward the goal
  - Add language discussing ‘committee has a numerical goal and measuring progress regularly against that goal
  - State what the goal is
  - Second paragraph – add language about the use and sources of the energy or drop out the word consumption
  - Avoid carbon footprint language

Councilor Goodman-Campbell said the committee is on the right track and to make sure to have a few main points of emphasis that will stick with Council as they go into goal setting. Goodman-Campbell said to choose items that are related to bigger goals around things like transportation.

Member Buckley asked if the presentation should be verbatim and text-heavy or if it should be a bit more conversational. Lacy said it does not need to be verbatim because Council will be receiving a copy of the form.

Member Baungard said this is already a part of an established process that the committee wants to emphasize and recognize what the important points the committee wants to come out of this long statement.

Member Jensen said the most powerful statement is a couple of bullet points on the state of the environment and the impact it is having here locally as well as globally.

Member Welch said Bend is growing fast and that has a huge impact on the environment. Welch said the committee needs to address that because those are all lost opportunities if they are not addressed.

Member Chokshi said there is an opportunity to have bipartisan support on the City Council for many of the objectives of the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Chokshi asked if there was a way to engage more of the local businesses and get their support more openly for what the committee is trying to do.

## **5. Review and Approve Guidelines and Principles**

Lacy presented the following slides on the Guidelines and Principles:

- Conduct of Business at Meetings

Member Welch moved to approve the guidelines and principles document as written with the current edits and with the typo fixed. Member Dietrich seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously (8-0).

## 6. Ex Officio Public Agency Representatives

Lacy presented the following updates:

- Bend Parks and Recreation has a seat on the committee and will probably be most involved – staff has presented to the Bend Parks and Recreation District Board multiple times
- CCAP was presented to the Bend La-Pine School District
- Bend Parks and Recreation District and Bend La-Pine School District submitted a letter of support to the City Council in support of adopting the CCAP
- Presentations given to other agencies focused on this plan requiring partnership and some strategies will take other agencies working together
- A lot of involvement from Deschutes County through the Solid Waste Department – a lot of solid waste strategies tied into the regional solid waste master plan that was under development
- Did not have engagement with the elected level of Deschutes County
- Bend Parks and Recreation District stated they are ready to participate at any time – they have board support to participate
- Bend La-Pine School District is enthusiastic to participate
- Deschutes County staff offered to be a resource and are open to being involved in discussions that relate to the county – they declined participating as an ex officio representative

Member Dietrich said it is important representation from each of the agencies is invited to every meeting.

Member Buckley said it would be great to have the other agencies invited to meetings and if they are involved in ownership they will be better partners especially when the committee is trying to help coordinate or influence their decisions.

Member Buckley asked Lacy if there was sense of the agencies' willingness to participate. Lacy said the other agencies would be willing if the committee picks staff that are interested in it and have a natural alignment. Lacy said the Bend Parks and Recreation District felt strongly that staff should be actively participating.

Member Jensen said to keep it efficient, and to have the best possible collaboration, having a liaison between each of the individual groups and having someone dedicated from the committee to coordinate would be most effective.

Member Dietrich said knowing the current standing of Deschutes County, are there other representatives that the committee thinks is important to be a potential non-voting member. Ian Leitheiser said based on how the code is written, there is not an opportunity to appoint or invite anyone else as a non-voting member. Leitheiser said an alternative is the committee could invite people to a session if there is input wanted for a particular topic or there is an option of creating subcommittees and workgroups to tackle something in particular.

Member Welch shared concerns for Deschutes County not wanting to participate. Welch said a lot of what the committee is wanting to do will require participation from the County.

Member Grube said the lines start to blur between the City and County in achieving a lot of the committee's objectives. Grube said there is new county leadership and would imagine there could be a new perspective on collaboration between the City and the County on achieving the goals.

Member Chokshi asked if ex-officio members would be voting on motions or decisions. Lacy confirmed the ex-officio members would not vote.

Member Chokshi shared concerns with the committee getting too large with the additional members in terms of scheduling meetings or if they would be able to attend all of them. Chokshi said that it may make sense to have a quarterly meeting with the ex-officio members that would have more of the topics they can share input on.

Member Isbell said it would be great to have a representative from the County. Isbell said the committee will not be constrained in achieving the goals in the CCAP by not having participation from the County.

Lacy said it will not prevent the committee from engaging with the County when it is relevant. Lacy said it makes sense to keep the invitation open especially with new leadership.

Member Grube asked if the County's constraints were around time and resources or a philosophical approach to the committee's business. Lacy said they did not elaborate and does not have a lot of insight into that.

## **7. Discussion: Environment and Climate Committee and Community Climate Action Plan Next Steps**

Lacy presented the following suggestions for the Environment and Climate Committee and Climate Action Plan:

- Visioning process or other foundation building
- Create a biennium work plan
- Learning more about each other and understanding everyone's availability
- Background education and context on the City
- More background on CCAP
- Outside experts with external partners for specific CCAP actions
- Specific other City staff or department information (i.e. transportation)
- More information on the process of engaging with Council

The committee discussed the following next steps on the Environment and Climate Committee and Climate Action Plan:

- Hear from local experts before determining what committee's priorities are – set up field trips or presentations – City processes

- Committee's Charter – being able to respond to some of City Council's request timeline and commitment
- Knowing what is in the work plan would help the committee – do not want to lose any opportunities
- Next meeting – look at criteria to prioritize projects then look at different actions across the criteria
- Build out an action plan in a matrix of additional information that might be helpful – tracking and progress
- Base work off of engaging with people in the community and look into other potential successful models after goal setting and the matrix, then involve other experts
- List of community partners – completed by the Climate Action Steering Committee
- Include the Oregon Department of Environment and Quality (DEQ) on the community partners list
- Committee to look beyond the scope of the community for other models – Grid Alternatives
- Invite staff from other state agencies to see what is on their agenda with implementing the Governor's Executive Order and how they see how local governments partnering and implementing a lot of what they are working on

Lacy explained that once Council goals are complete, in February staff will be building out the work plan to achieve those goals. Lacy said once that is completed, the committee will then write out what projects will be happening in the next two years. Lacy said the committee will get to see the full work plan in the spring.

Lacy said at the next meeting the committee should look at what criteria they want to use to prioritize projects and then look at the different actions across the criteria.

## **8. Chair and Vice-Chair Discussion or Elections**

Was not discussed due to time.

## **9. Agenda setting**

Lacy discussed the following agenda items:

- Overview of Council and what their priorities have been in the past
- Review goal setting
- Overview of how the City approaches work
- Matrix looking at actions and community partners

Member Chokshi asked if the committee will discuss experts on the environmental side and community engagement partners. Lacy said it would include all of the above because those groups are not always separate. Lacy said a lot of the subject matter experts are actual implementers of ideas or close partners in implementing those ideas.

Member Chokshi asked if the committee will also have a listening session or get input from the community groups that represent different diverse groups and the community

itself even if they are not environmentally focused. Lacy said that has happened in the past and one of the appendices in the CCAP explains more in detail how the Climate Action Steering Committee engaged some of the non-profit groups. Lacy said it is a good idea to do it in the future and is up to the committee.

Member Welch was not in a hurry to bring experts in and stated that the committee needs to focus on what is going on in the City, what the plan is, what is out there now, and how to categorize what actions the committee needs to take on.

**10. Adjourned at 1:03 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla M. Duddy  
Deputy City Recorder